

Message Text

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66

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /103 W

----- 069404

R 151910 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5490

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3149

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GROWTH OF ACTIVE OPPOSITION

1. AFTER 55 MONTHS OF ORDER IF NOT OF LAW, PERU HAS BEGUN GENTLY ROCKING IN WAVE OF LABOR UNREST AND PUBLIC PROTESTS BY PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST GROUPS. SHOWS OF DISCONTENT HAVE BEEN PROVOKED IN PART BY TWO MALADROIT MEASURES, RETIREMENT LAW AND NATIONALIZATION OF FISHMEAL INDUSTRY, COMBINED WITH WIDE VARIETY OF OTHER GRIEVANCES. MORE BASICALLY, HOWEVER, UNREST PROBABLY IS NOURISHED BY GROWING UNCERTAINTY OF PALACE POLITICAL SITUATION: AILING PRESIDENT IS PROVIDING LITTLE LEADERSHIP, SUCCESSION QUESTION REMAINS UNSETTLED, AND TENSIONS AMONG RIVALS IN MILITARY ELITE ARE DRAINING MILGOV OF ESSENTIAL STRENGTH, ITS UNITY.

2. WHILE THIS SITUATION DOES NOT APPROACH CRISIS, IT MUST SUGGEST TO OPPOSITION THAT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR POLITICAL ACTION. ANY SUCH ACTION, TO
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BE REALISTIC, WOULD HAVE TO BE FOCUSED NOT ON PUSHING MILITARY FROM POWER ALL AT ONCE BUT ON PERSUADING ONE OR ANOTHER FACTION IN MILGOV TO MOVE AGAINST VALASCO-- PERHAPS BY PRIOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN CIVILIAN OPPOSITION GROUP AND MILITARY FACTION.

3. APRISTAS, WHOSE STRATEGY HAS BEEN TO LIE LOW UNTIL GOVT WEAKENED BY ECONOMIC REVERSES AND INTERNAL DIVISIONS, MAY WELL BELIEVE MOMENT THEY HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR IS GETTING CLOSER. ONE- DAY GENERAL STRIKE PLANNED BY APRA- CONTROLLED CTP (LIMA 3118) WOULD BE PARTY ' S FIRST MAJOR POLITICAL MANEUVER SINCE 1968 COUP AND WOULD TEST BOTH EFFECTIVENESS AND RICKINESS OF OPPOSITION IN CURRENT CLIMATE. RESULTS OF THIS TEST ARE LIKELY HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON PLANS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
BELCHER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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